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when that question was asked, the information at the disposal of the Government was given. There are certainly days in which it was not issued and it is possible either because of the stocks in the depots being exhausted and there is nothing to give or the people do not care to buy from there. There are a number of relief shops not resorted to by people because grains are available in the market and people have no necessity to go to the relief shops. The idea of the Government in making the stocks available is to enable the poor people to get grains at cheap controlled rates and it is not our object to attract all the people to these shops. The relief shops are always open and the Government have recently issued a circular that seven days' quota of rice may be issued in cases where it is necessary. Every attempt is made to ensure the availability of grains in these relief shops so that people who want to buy, may avail themselves of it."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"May I know, Sir, whether in the districts where relief shops have been opened, they will be continued so long as the demand for them exists?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—"Certainly, Sir."

Industrial Disputes.

* 79 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of industrial disputes referred to in (1) a Board, (2) Court and (3) Tribunal and industries and trades involved in each dispute;

(*b*) the names of persons who have been constituted as (1) Board, (2) Court and (3) Tribunal;

(*c*) in how many of the disputes have each of these three bodies announced their decision;

(*d*) whether the decisions of all these bodies are binding on the parties concerned;

(*e*) whether there are any proposals to take power to enforce these decisions; and

(*f*) whether there have been instances in which the Government *suo moto* have referred disputes to any or all of these bodies even though the parties neither jointly nor separately asked for the reference of their disputes to any of these bodies.

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—"(*a*) The number of disputes referred to Boards of Conciliation, Courts of Enquiry and Adjudicators or Industrial Tribunals up to the end of February 1948 are 6, 5 and 107 respectively. A statement [a] of industries and trades involved in these disputes is placed on the table.

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on page 341 infra.

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"(*b*) A statement of the names of persons constituted as (1) Boards of Conciliation, (2) Courts of Enquiry and (3) Adjudicators or Industrial Tribunals is placed on the table.

"(*c*) The Boards of Conciliation and the Courts of Enquiry have announced their decisions in all the disputes referred to them.

In the case of the Adjudicators and Tribunals they have announced their decisions in respect of 71 disputes out of the 107 disputes referred to them.

"(*d*) The recommendations of the Boards of Conciliation and Courts of Enquiry are not binding on the parties under the Industrial Disputes Act. The decisions of Adjudicators and Tribunals are binding.

"(*e*) There are no proposals to enforce the decisions of the Boards of Conciliation and Courts of Enquiry.

"(*f*) Yes, Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" With reference to clause (*e*), may I know whether the Government have any proposal under consideration to enforce the decision of the Adjudicators and Tribunals if they are not respected by the parties concerned? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" When parties disobey, they are liable for prosecution."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether in the case of these seventy-one disputes in which the Adjudicators and Tribunals have given decisions, their awards have been enforced? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" As I have said, in most cases the awards have been enforced. In such a case where there has been violation or breach of the conditions of the award, the parties responsible for it are liable to prosecution."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether any prosecution has been instituted against any of the parties? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Yes, Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" With reference to answer to (*f*), may I know, under what circumstances the Government *suo motu* refer them to any of the bodies mentioned? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" It depends upon the nature of the industry and also the necessity for enquiry into the matter."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, who is the complaining party? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" The complainant is the complaining party."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" The question was whether there have been instances in which the Government *suo motu* have referred disputes to any or all of these bodies even though the parties neither jointly nor separately asked for the

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reference of their disputes to any of these bodies, so that neither the labour nor the employer have referred the disputes to the Government, but still the Government have on their own accord referred them to these bodies? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Yes, Sir. When the Government feel the necessity for such an enquiry, they do constitute *suo motu* an enquiry, as already stated."

Quantity of yarn (80 counts) imported from foreign countries.

* 80 Q.—SRI M. K. SUNDARARAMA AYYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) the quantity of yarn up to 80 counts imported from foreign countries for the past six months, (i) grey yarn, (ii) bleached yarn and (iii) coloured yarn; and their respective imported cost prices;

(*b*) whether the prices for such imported yarn were 50 to 75 per cent over the controlled ruling rates of the yarn produced by the mills in our Province;

(*c*) whether the Government are aware that such high rates for imported yarn will not in anyway help the handloom industry since the cost price of the handloom cloth produced by such yarn will naturally be high:

(*d*) whether the Government are aware that as soon as the system of ration cards was abolished, the retail dealers began to sell yarn to consumers on condition that along with Indian mills yarn at controlled rates they must take some quantity of imported yarn which they were unwilling to take on account of their high prices;

(*e*) if the answer to clause (*d*) is in the affirmative, what steps the Government have taken to avoid such dealings; and

(*f*) whether there is any proposal before the Government to avoid such importation of foreign yarn (grey, bleached or coloured) in order to keep up the prices of handloom products within easy reach of all the consuming public?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" (*a*) The quantity of yarn up to 80 counts imported from foreign countries from June to December 1947 is shown below :—

	LB.
Grey	169,227½
Bleached	14,739
Dyed	24,020

The average prices for these six months are given below. The rates are for a bundle of 5 lb. :—

Counts.	Grey.			Bleached.			Dyed.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
60s	27	14	2	31	11	5	35	1	6
70s	31	10	0	33	11	5		..	
80s	31	11	5	33	9	2	41	4	0

Similar details from January 1948 are not available.